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LETTER DATED 9 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 6 July 1996 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning violations of Iraq's airspace committed by United States aircraft between 1 January and 30 June 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 6 July 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to my letter of 28 January 1996 (S/1996/64, annex), in which I gave detailed information on the hostile actions undertaken by United States and other aircraft while violating Iraqi airspace from military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait between 1 July and 31 December 1995. That letter also gave examples of provocative actions carried out by United States and other warships inside the territorial waters of the Republic of Iraq during the same period.

I should like in the present letter to alert you to the fact that between 1 January and 30 June 1996 United States and other warplanes continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq from military bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan and to engage in such hostile, provocative and inflammatory actions as breaking the sound barrier in civilian areas and over civilian installations, dropping heat flares on cultivated land and crops, and dropping inflammatory leaflets. A number of warships also provoked Iraqi civilian vessels inside Iraqi territorial waters. These incidents, examples of which are set forth hereunder, were reported and documented by us at the time they first occurred.

1. At 1225 and 1258 hours on 26 April in northern Iraq a formation of United States aircraft dropped 15 heat flares 20 kilometres south of Dohuk, 10 heat flares 20 kilometres to the east of Saddam Dam and another 10 heat flares in the Qush area of Ninawa Governorate.

2. At 1400 hours on 26 April a United States warplane dropped a metallic object on a cultivated area in the village of Karfush in Dohuk Governorate in northern Iraq. The object consisted of a highly combustible phosphorous compound weighing 1.5 kilograms and caused damage to the location in which it fell.

3. At 0920 hours on 27 April a United States aircraft dropped hostile leaflets in the Dayr area of Basra Governorate in southern Iraq.

4. Between 0830 and 1005 hours on 28 April four United States helicopters coming from Kuwaiti airspace dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets in civilian areas of Basra and Safwan, in the Kutayban and Nashwah areas of Basra Governorate and on Basra International Airport. They then returned in the direction of Kuwaiti airspace.

5. On the morning of 28 April a black United States warplane violated Iraqi airspace coming from Kuwait. It dropped large quantities of hostile and inflammatory leaflets in civilian areas of southern Iraq.

6. At 1200 hours on 30 April United States warplanes dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets in residential areas in Shalash and Shahlat al-Hasan. Some of them fell in the Shatt al-Arab in Basra Governorate.

7. At 1217 hours on 2 May and 1022 hours on 5 May a United States formation broke the sound barrier in the Salman area of southern Iraq.

8. At 1235 hours on 25 May a United States formation consisting of two aircraft dropped 10 heat flares 5 kilometres south of the Qush area, which is to the north of Mosul.

9. At 2235 hours on 5 June a United States formation dropped a heat flare in the Nashwah area in Basra Governorate, two heat flares on Chabaish, two heat flares in the Suq al-Shuyukh area and one heat flare to the south-west of Nasiriyah in Dhi Qar Governorate.

We condemn these acts of aggression and provocation by the United States and others, and we request you to intervene with the countries in question, as is required of you in accordance with the responsibility entrusted to you under the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to halting these violations and these unwarranted acts of aggression. The countries in which the aircraft are based and those whose aircraft and ships carry out these acts are to be held fully accountable for them, for the damage they cause and for the threats of a security-related, economic and moral nature that they pose to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

I likewise affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the material and other damage inflicted on it by the commission of acts that are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international public law, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq